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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO MCCLELLAND/OES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, IT
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF U.S.-ITALY AGREEMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

1. THIS REVIEW IS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH ITALIAN OFFICIALS DURING THE VISIT TO ROME ON 5 AND 6 JUNE OF NSF DEPUTY DIRECTOR PIMENTEL AND ACCOMPANYING NSF STAFF EMBERS AVERCH AND UZNANSKI. WE WOULD LIKE TO SET FORTH HERE THE MISSION'S VIEWS ON THE U.S.G. OBJECTIVES DURING THIS VISIT AND HOW THEY MIGHT BEST BE ACHIEVED.

2. THE MAJOR U.S. OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR A REVIEW IN MID-JANUARY OF U.S.-ITALY SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. THE REVIEW SHOULD IN PRINCIPLE COVER ALL BILATERAL GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION, NOT JUST THE NSF-CNR (ITALIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL) ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, BECAUSE ENERGY COOPERATION IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION IN THE BILATERAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP AND BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULT ISSUES SURROUNDING THESE DISCUSSIONS, ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WOULD IN PRACTICE BE EXCLUDED FROM THE JANUARY 1979 REVIEW.

2. IN KEEPING WITH THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT NATURE OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BILATERAL S AND T AGREEMENT AS WELL AS WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED REVIEW, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD INDICATE DURING THE PIMENTEL VISIT THAT IT INTENDS TO SEND A MULTI-AGENCY GROUP FOR THE JANUARY REVIEW. THIS GROUP WOULD INCLUDE (IN ADDITION TO NSF) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, NASA, NBS, EPA AND OTHER INTERESTED USG AGENCIES. ACCORDINGLY, PIMENTEL'S VISIT SHOULD INCLUDE CALLS

NOT ONLY ON CNR BUT ALSO ON THE MFA AND ON THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, WHICH WOULD BE JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSEMBLING AN ITALIAN REVIEW GROUP WITH COMPARABLE BREADTH.

4. SO FAR AS ANY PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT ARE CONCERNED, WE RECOMMEND THE USG TAKE THE POSITION THAT THESE SHOULD BE POSTPONED AND CONSIDERED AT THE TIME OF RENEWAL IN MID-1980. IN THE MEANWHILE, WE SHOULD REGARD THE MAJOR SHORT-COMINGS OF THE AGREEMENT TO BE IN IMPLEMENTATION RATHER THAN WORDING. NO REVIEW HAS BEEN CONDUCTED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND THE LAST REVIEW COVERED ONLY NSF-CNR ACTIVITIES. WE SHOULD INDICATE OUR WILLINGNESS TO CORRECT THIS SITUATION NOT ONLY BY REVIEWING THE AGREEMENT IN JANUARY BUT ALSO BY INDICATING OUR WILLINGNESS TO UNDERTAKE ANOTHER REVIEW BEFORE THE TIME FOR RENEWAL (JUNE 19, 1980).

5. AT THE SAME TIME, WE SHOULD OPPOSE EFFORTS TO CREATE (AS THE NSF STAFF HAS PROPOSED) A PERMANENT REVIEW BOARD OR TO FOLD THE BILATERAL S AND T AGREEMENT INTO A GENERAL CULTURAL AGREEMENT, AS SOME IN ITALY WOULD LIKE TO DO. NEITHER OF THESE PROPOSALS OFFERS ANY SUBSTANTIAL BENEFIT TO THE U.S., AND BOTH WOULD CREATE CUMBERSOME BUREAUCRATIC MECHANISMS. THE PRESENT DECENTRALIZED SYSTEM OF AGENCY-BY-AGENCY DECISION-MAKING MAY NOT ALWAYS FULFILL ALL NEEDS, BUT AT LEAST IT IS FLEXIBLE AND RELATIVELY LIGHT ON BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURE.

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6. IN PREPARING FOR THE JANUARY 1979 REVIEW, THE USG SHOULD, WE BELIEVE, PREPARE AN ANALYSIS AND INVENTORY OF ALL BILATERAL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED SINCE THE RENEWAL OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1975. DURING THE PIMENTEL VISIT, WE BELIEVE THE ITALIANS SHOULD BE ASKED TO WORK WITH THE U.S. ON THE INVENTORY AS WELL AS TO PREPARE THEIR OWN ANALYTICAL EVALUATION OF THE BILATERAL ACTIVITIES.

7. IN RESPONDING TO ITALIAN PLEAS FOR EXPANDED COOPERATION, WE SHOULD DURING THE JUNE VISIT BE OPTIMISTIC BUT NONCOMMITAL. WHILE NOTING THAT WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE OUR BILATERAL S AND T ACTIVITIES AS PART OF OUR OVERALL "STRATEGY OF COOPERATION WITH ITALY," WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE FIRMEST BASIS FOR SUCH EXPANSION IS THE MUTUAL BENEFIT DERIVED FROM SPECIFIC S AND T PROJECT S

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OUR
SYSTEM OF FUNDING PROJECTS RELIES HEAVILY ON PEER REVIEW AND OTHER MERITOCRATIC PROCEDURES THAT DO NOT PERMIT SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS UNLESS THEY ARE OF HIGH QUALITY IN THE EYES OF THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES INVOLVED.

8. AS AN AGENDA FOR THE PIMENTEL VISIT, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:

1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

PRESIDENT, CNR

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NSF

2. PROPOSED REVIEW OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT

(A) SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

(B) COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATIONS

(C) FORMAT, DATE AND PLACE OF THE MEETING

3. PREPARATIONS FOR THE REVIEW

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(A) INVENTORY OF ACTIVITIES

(B) ANALYTICAL EVALUATIONS

4. POST-REVIEW PLANS

(A) MODES FOR POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF COOPERATION

(B) POSSIBLE SECOND REVIEW BEFORE RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT IN 1980.GARDNER

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